projects, efforts are being made by the Government to involve the user agencies such as Ports, Public Sector Undertakings as also the State Governments in Public-private partnerships for implementing Railway projects.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with M/s. Gujarat Pipavav Port Limited for forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for Gauge Conversion of Surendranagar-Pipavav and New Line extension to Pipavav port in the State of Gujarat has been signed. The SPV shall undertake the work of Broad Gauge connectivity between Surendranagar and the Port of Pipavav.

Similarly, with the basic objective of encouraging private sector participation in the development of Rail infrastructure like Gauge Conversion, Doubling etc., the Ministry of Railways had also introduced a Build-Own-Lease-Transfer (BOLT) scheme. However, the BOLT scheme, in its present form, has not been quite successful and the response has been poor. At present, there is only one on- going project under the BOLT scheme namely Mudkhed-Adilabad Gauge Conversion, on South Central Railway, traversing the States of Maharastra and Andhra Pradesh.

Wtih a view to make BOLT scheme more investor friendly, it has decided to modify the terms and conditions of the scheme. Further bids for the identified infrastructure projects, under the BOLT scheme, would be invited after finalisation of the bid documents for the modified scheme.

Sole Selling Clause in Railway Bookstall Agreements

2914. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:
SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether action for withdrawal of the sole selling right clause from the current bookstall agreements of Railways is in conformity with provision of article 19(1) G of the Constitution of India; and

(b) if not, what are the detailed reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS: (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Sole selling right clause provided in the agreements of the bookstall licensees on Indian Railways was withdrawn in 1975 except in case of M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. whose sole rights were restricted to only those stations, where they were holding bookstalls. This clause was

further modified so that railway could allot bookstalls to any other eligible categories at new platforms constructed after, 1.1.1976 even at those railway stations where M/s A.H. Wheeler & Co. have sole selling rights. This is in conformity with the provisions of article 19(1) (G) of the Constitution of India.

Railway Development Corporation

2915. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any Corporation called "Railway Development Corporation, under which the slums near railway lines were planned to be removed and the people living there, were to be rehabilitated;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) in which year the said Corporation was constituted; and

(d) the number of persons allotted houses, free of cost under the rehabilitation scheme after displacement since the constitution of the said Corporation, giving the State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Track Conversion in Tamil Nadu

2916. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total length of track remaining in Tamil Nadu to be converted into BG, sector wise;

(b) what steps are being taken to convert these tracks;

(c) when it is likely to be completed; and

(d) what are the reasons for the delay in the programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) Approximately 1960 km of track in Tamil Nadu is yet to be converted into BG. Details are as follows.